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Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report of the Secretary-General**

1. In its resolution 55/80 of 4 December 2000, the General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit, through the Secretary-General, a report on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. The present report contains a summary of the activities relating to indigenous peoples undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner since the autumn of 2000 until the end of June 2001.

Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people

2. The sixth session of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to discuss a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people was held at Geneva from 20 November to 1 December 2000. There was discussion on the different aspects of the process followed by a general debate on substantive aspects of the draft declaration, in particular on self-determination, land rights and natural resources. The Working Group considered articles 1, 2, 12, 14, 44 and 45 in informal meetings during the session. No new articles of the draft declaration were adopted at first reading. The report of the Working Group is contained in document E/CN.4/2001/85, and amendments proposed by Governments for future discussion appear in annex I to the report.

* A/56/150.

** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/222, section III, paragraph 10, this report is being submitted on 10 July 2001 so as to include as much updated information as possible.

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Workshop on Indigenous Media

3. A workshop on indigenous media was held in New York from 11 to 14 December 2000, organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat. The aim was to bring together representatives of indigenous media and the mainstream press as well as representatives of United Nations agencies and other relevant institutions and organizations to follow up on the first Workshop on Indigenous Media, held in Madrid from 26 to 28 January 1998, and to elaborate a programme of activities for the strengthening of indigenous media during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and beyond. The report of the Workshop is contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2001/3.

4. The Workshop underlined the importance of indigenous media as an indispensable tool to promote indigenous identity, language, culture, self-representation, and collective and human rights, and as a vehicle for communicating international, regional and national issues to indigenous communities as well as conveying community concerns to a wider public. The Workshop recognized the urgent need to strengthen the indigenous media. It also recommended that the United Nations establish a web page on indigenous peoples with links to all United Nations agencies and regional and intergovernmental organizations in order to facilitate indigenous peoples' participation in international activities. The Workshop also recommended that indigenous journalists and media be invited to attend the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001, and file stories.

5. In the light of the recommendations of the second Workshop on Indigenous Media, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will organize an indigenous media panel, which will focus on the role of media in combating discrimination against indigenous peoples, at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The Panel will examine the representation of indigenous peoples in the media and strategies for improvements. It will also provide an opportunity for indigenous media to consider how they can contribute to the implementation of the plan of action of the World Conference.

Workshop on Multiculturalism in Africa: Peaceful and constructive group accommodation in situations involving minorities and indigenous peoples

6. The second Workshop on Multiculturalism in Africa was held at Kidal, Mali from 8 to 13 January 2001. It was organized by the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), based in Kidal, and the Chairpersons of the United Nations Working Group on Minorities and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme's office in Bamako. The Workshop recognized the complexity of the concept of indigenous peoples and minorities in Africa and encouraged further dialogue among the different peoples of the Continent on the issue. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was encouraged to organize further workshops and seminars on multiculturalism, indigenous peoples and minorities in other regions of Africa. The establishment by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights of a working group on

indigenous peoples/communities was noted and participants recommended that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights strengthen its ties with the Commission, in particular in connection with the new working group. The report of the second Workshop is contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.5/2001/3.

Commission on Human Rights

7. The Commission on Human Rights held its fifty-seventh session from 19 March to 27 April 2001. The Commission considered the report of the Working Group on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people and the report on the activities undertaken within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (E/CN.4/2001/84). The Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution on the Working Group on the draft declaration (resolution 2001/58) and a further resolution on the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (resolution 2001/59), both of 24 April 2001. The Commission also decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a special rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (resolution 2001/57 of 24 April 2001). The Special Rapporteur will have the following functions: (a) to gather, request, receive and exchange information and communications from all relevant sources, including Governments, indigenous people themselves and their communities and organizations, on violations of their human rights and fundamental freedoms; (b) to formulate recommendations and proposals on appropriate measures and activities to prevent and remedy violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people; and (c) to work in close relation with other special rapporteurs, special representatives, working groups and independent experts of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, taking into account the request of the Commission contained in resolution 1993/30 of 5 March 1993. The Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights subsequently appointed Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen (Mexico) as Special Rapporteur.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

8. The Economic and Social Council, by resolution 2000/22 of 28 July 2000, decided to establish the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as an advisory body with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues within the mandate of the Council relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. In accordance with that resolution, the Permanent Forum will be composed of 16 members, eight to be nominated by Governments and elected by the Council and eight to be appointed by the President of the Council on the basis of consultations. The Forum will report to the Council. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the lead agency for the implementation of the Council's resolution, has held a number of meetings, both formal and informal, with indigenous peoples, Governments and United Nations agencies. Focal points in the specialized agencies have been identified and an inter-agency contact group has been formed in order to draw on existing expertise within the United Nations system in the preparations for the first session.

Working Group on Indigenous Populations

9. The principal theme of the nineteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (23-27 July 2001) is "Indigenous peoples and their right to development, including their right to participate in development affecting them". The agenda also includes the following items: review of developments, including land issues, education and health; standard-setting activities, including a review of indigenous peoples' relationship with natural resource, energy and mining companies; the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Numerous briefing meetings have been scheduled, including by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Approximately 1,000 participants are expected to attend.

Indigenous Fellowship Programme

10. The Indigenous Fellowship Programme was established in 1997, and since that time four indigenous persons have spent six months each year in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on a training course on human rights, which also includes training modules in many of the United Nations agencies, such as ILO, WHO, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and also at several non-governmental organizations. The Programme gives indigenous individuals the opportunity to gain experience in human rights and the United Nations system and to serve as resource persons in their communities when they return. This year, the Programme has increased from four to five fellows, albeit for a reduced period of five months. These indigenous fellows are: Ms. Vonda Moar (Australia), Ms. Mama Rampadi (Botswana), Ms. Mirian Masaquiza (Ecuador), Mr. Fritz Pieter (Namibia), and Mr. Piya Sansee (Thailand).

11. The Indigenous Fellowship Programme was expanded, in collaboration with the Institute of Human Rights of the University of Deusto at Bilbao, Spain, which provided formal human rights training to indigenous fellows from Latin America: Mr. Santiago Manuin (Peru), Ms. Alicia Tsukanka (Ecuador), Ms. Eva Tranamil (Chile), Mr. Luis Arturo Xep (Guatemala) and Mr. Santiago Flores (Honduras). The fellows also spend approximately two months at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, gaining practical experience. The Programme is extremely well received by indigenous peoples and the number of applicants far exceeds the number of places available.

Technical Cooperation Programme

12. There is increasing cooperation to integrate indigenous issues into the technical cooperation programmes administered by the Office of the High Commissioner. At present, technical cooperation projects in Bolivia, Ecuador and Guatemala include specific activities that benefit indigenous people. These activities consist of training representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and strengthening the capacity of State institutions responsible for the protection of human rights with a specific mandate for indigenous peoples. The Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation and the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of

the World's Indigenous People are jointly funding a seminar on human rights for indigenous peoples in Mexico that will take place from 13 to 17 August 2001.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

13. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985 to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights by providing them with financial assistance. The General Assembly broadened the mandate of the Voluntary Fund in its resolution 50/156 of 21 December 1995 by deciding that the Fund should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

14. The Fund is administered by the Secretary-General, assisted by a Board of Trustees, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations relating to trust funds for humanitarian assistance. The biennial report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Fund and activities undertaken with the resources of the Fund was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (A/55/202). Updated information is available in the last report on the Decade to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2001/84, paras. 21-27) and in the note by the Secretariat on the Fund submitted to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2001/4). Information on the Fund is also available on the web site of the High Commissioner: www.ohchr.ch under "Fundraising/Funds". Additional information can be obtained from the Fund's secretariat at the Trust Funds Unit, Support Services Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

15. At its fourteenth session, held at Geneva from 28 to 30 March and on 2 April 2001, the Board of Trustees considered 225 applications for grants to enable indigenous representatives to attend the nineteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (23-27 July 2001) and 32 applications to attend the seventh session of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights (October/November 2001). In the light of the selection criteria, the Board recommended 79 travel grants to attend the session of the first Working Group, for a total amount of about US$ 321,700, and 23 travel grants to attend the second one, for a total amount of about US$ 110,200 (cf. list of beneficiaries in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2001/4). It also recommended about US$ 38,000 for grants to allow representatives of indigenous organizations and communities to attend, as observers, a possible meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in the first months of 2002 before the next session of the Board, in case of the adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly which could further extend the mandate of the Fund.[1]

16. At its annual meeting with donor Governments on 30 March 2001 in Geneva, the Board of Trustees expressed its gratitude for the donors' generous contributions, recommended a sustained effort and, if possible, an increase in their contributions. The Board was encouraged by even symbolic contributions as an expression of

interest in the participation of indigenous populations. The Board invited Governments to continue to meet with it during its annual session to discuss issues of mutual concern. The Board urged donors that have pledged a contribution to pay it as soon as possible.[2] The Board also expressed concern about the decrease in the number of donors and contributions received and urged new donors to contribute so that the donor's base could be increased.

Table 1
Contributions available at the fourteenth session of the Board in March 2001*

Country	*Amount (US dollars)*	*Paid on*
Cyprus	2 996	29.12.2000
Denmark	40 000	26.03.2001
Estonia	17 760	02.01.2001
Greece	6 000	19.12.2000
Holy See	1 000	26.12.2000
Netherlands	29 489	26.09.2000
Norway	55 163	28.03.2001
Switzerland	22 727	27.11.2000

* According to official receipt vouchers available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Table 2
Contributions available for the fifteenth session in March 2002* (as at 30 June 2001)

Country	*Amount (US dollars)*	*Paid on*
Canada	9 530	06.04.2001
Chile	5 000	24.04.2000
Finland	33 996	20.04.2001

* According to official receipt vouchers available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Table 3
Pledges made as at 30 June 2001

Country	*Amount (US dollars)*	*Pledged in*	*Pledged on*
Bolivia	1 000	New York	2-3.11.1999[a]
Chile	5 000	New York	1-2.11.2000[b]

[a] Pledge made at the 1999 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.
[b] Pledge made at the 2000 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

17. The Fund receives contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. The Commission on Human Rights, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 2001/59 of 24 April 2001, and the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 (e) of its resolution 55/80, appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to support the International Decade by contributing to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, together with other donors, in order to assist indigenous representatives in participating in the above-mentioned Working Groups in 2002.

18. Interested donors are invited to pay their contributions before the next session of the Advisory Group (April 2002) in order to enable the Fund and its Board of Trustees to fulfil their mandate. Voluntary contributions can be made by bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund" in US dollars to account 240-C-590-160.1 or in other currencies to account 240-C-590-160.0 c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland, Swift address UBSWCHZH12A. Contributions can also be paid by cheque to the order of the "United Nations" and sent to The Treasurer, United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Donors should mention, in any case, "For the Fund for Indigenous Populations, account IH".

United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

19. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 48/163, 49/214 and 50/157, the purpose of the Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is to finance projects and programmes during the Decade. The Fund receives contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. In conformity with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 50/157, an Advisory Group was established to assist the Coordinator of the Fund. The current Advisory Group is composed of the members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (see A/55/202, para. 4), who are all indigenous experts, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and another United Nations expert who is specialized in project and programme management and appointed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in her capacity as Coordinator of the Decade. The last reports by the secretariat on the Fund are contained in documents E/CN.4/2001/84 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2001/5. Information on the Fund is also available on the web site of the High Commissioner: www.ohchr.ch under "Fundraising/Funds". Additional information can be obtained from the secretariat of the Fund at the Trust Funds Unit, Support Services Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva.

20. At its sixth session, from 2 to 5 April 2001, the Advisory Group examined 60 applications for project grants. Thanks to the contributions made by new donors and the sustained contributions from regular donors, sufficient funds were available for 2001 to implement all envisaged activities (see table 1). The Advisory Group recommended grants to 30 indigenous projects, amounting to a total of US$ 252,606, which were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General (for the list of projects, see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2001/5, annex III). Sufficient funding was also available for the organization of a workshop on indigenous peoples, private sector, natural resource, energy and mining companies and human rights, a round table on indigenous

peoples, racism and the media, to be held as a parallel activity to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, a training seminar on human rights for indigenous people, to be held in Mexico, and a pilot training course on human rights for indigenous communities.

21. The following voluntary contributions were paid from 1 July 2000[3] to 30 June 2001:[4]

Table 4
Contributions paid from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001*

Donors	*Amount (US dollars)*	*Payment registered on*	*Payment received in*	*Number of contribution*
Canada	9 530	06.04.2001	Geneva	5th
Chile	5 000	24.04.2000[a]	Geneva	1st
Colombia	1 000	29.12.2000	New York	1st
Cyprus	2 996	29.12.2000	Geneva	4th
Denmark	119 127	27.03.2001	Geneva	5th
Estonia	17 760	02.01.2001	Geneva	3rd
Germany	21 599	07.12.2000	Geneva	2nd
Greece	3 000	09.02.2001	Geneva	5th
Netherlands	98 366	12.01.2001	New York	1st
Norway	53 631	30.11.2000	Geneva	4th
	55 163	28.03.2001	Geneva	5th

* According to official receipts available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

[a] The official receipt of the Treasurer of the United Nations, dated 24 April 2000, was only received at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights after the sixth session and will therefore be taken into consideration at the seventh session of the Advisory Group.

22. The following pledges remained outstanding as at 30 June 2001:

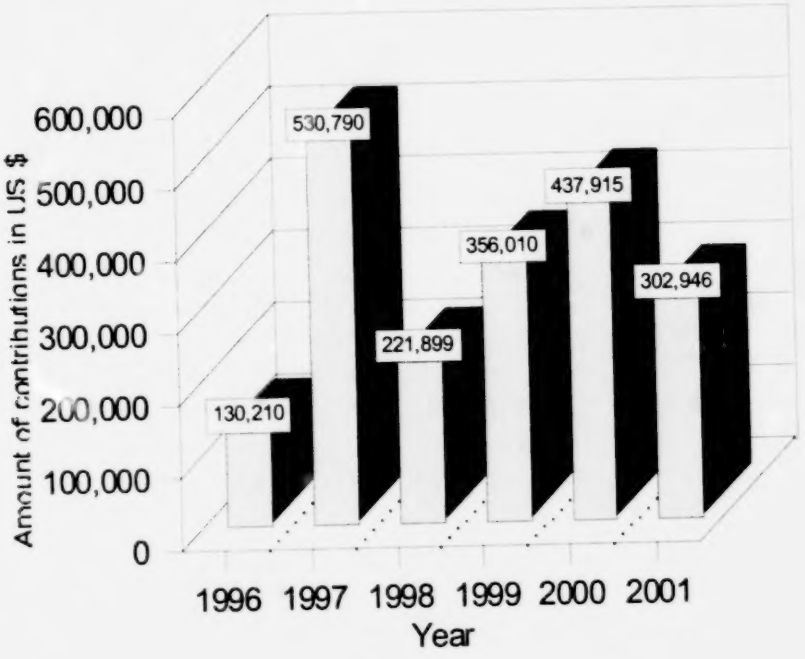
Table 5
Outstanding pledges as at 30 June 2001

Donor	*Amount (US dollars)*	*Date pledged*	*Pledged on*
Chile	10 000	Geneva	12.06.2001
Tunisia	951	New York	4-5.11.1998[a]
Movement for Defence of Democracy (Ghana)	200	Geneva	06.10.2000

[a] Pledge made at the 1998 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

23. The following chart shows the development of contributions to the Fund from 1996 to June 2001:

Table 6
Contributions made from 1996 to June 2001*



* According to official receipts available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

24. The cost plan for 2002 envisages that US$ 400,000 will be needed for project grants to indigenous organizations and communities, as well as workshops and seminars on indigenous issues. The Commission on Human Rights, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 2001/59 of 24 April 2001, and the General Assembly, in paragraph 6 (d) of its resolution 55/80, appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund. Interested donors are invited to pay their contributions before the next session of the Advisory Group (April 2002) in order to enable the Fund, the Advisory Group and the Coordinator of the Decade to fulfil their mandate. Voluntary contributions can be made by bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund" in United States dollars to account 240-C-590-160.1 or in other currencies to account 240-C-590-160.0 c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland, Swift address UBSWCHZH12A. Contributions can also be paid by cheque to the order of the "United Nations" and sent to The Treasurer, United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Donors should mention, in any case, "For the Fund for Indigenous People Decade, account IV".

Inter-agency consultation

25. An inter-agency consultation on indigenous peoples has been organized by either ILO or the Office of the High Commissioner for the past 10 years and provides an opportunity for an informal exchange of information between the staff working on indigenous or related issues. It has proved to be helpful in strengthening cooperation at the working level within United Nations organizations. The next consultation, on 20 July 2001, will focus on inter-agency cooperation in the preparations for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Notes

[1] The General Assembly had extended the mandate of the Fund by resolution 53/130 of 9 December 1998 by deciding that the Fund should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc Working Group on a permanent forum for indigenous people of the Commission on Human Rights established by the Commission in its resolution 1998/20, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1998/247 of 30 July 1998.

[2] The contributions by Chile and Finland were recorded by the Treasurer of the United Nations shortly after the session.

[3] Cf. the chart showing contributions to the Fund up to 30 June 2000 (A/55/268, para. 17).

[4] Date of drafting of the present report.